

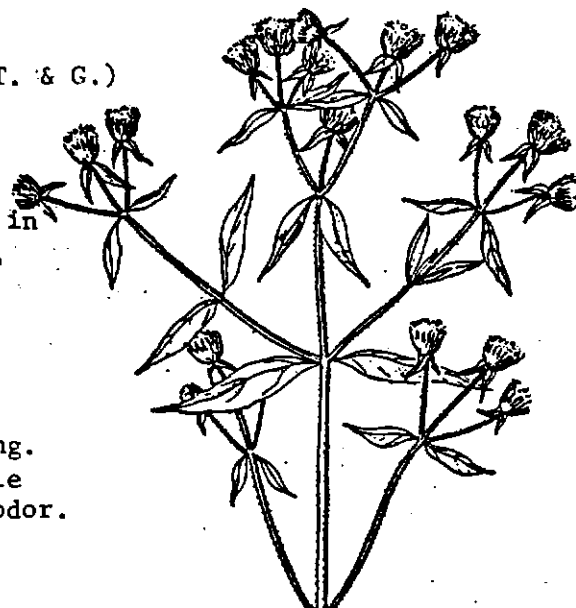
MASSACHUSETTS RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS

BASIL MOUNTAIN-MINT

(Pycnanthemum clinopodioides T. & G.)

DESCRIPTION

Basil Mountain-mint grows to about 3 feet (1 m.) in height and has a stem that is covered with short, curving hairs as well as some longer spreading hairs. The serrated, pale green leaves are lanceolate, tapering to a gradual point and measure 1-2½" (3-6 cm.) long. Flowers are small, arranged in dense clusters or heads (cymes) and are white or very pale purple with violet spotting. The flowering season is July-September. The whole plant smells very strongly with a pungent minty odor.



Gleason, H.A. The New Britton and Brown
Illustrated Flora of the Northeastern U.S.
and Adjacent Canada. New York Botanical Garden,
1952.

SIMILAR SPECIES IN MASSACHUSETTS

This species is rare, spottily distributed throughout its range and exhibits enough variability to suggest that it may be of hybrid origin. Indeed, the sole Massachusetts population grew intermingled with P. incanum and P. tenuifolium and appeared to combine characters of both. P. incanum has narrowly ovate leaves, whitened with dense hairs. P. tenuifolium has linear leaves.

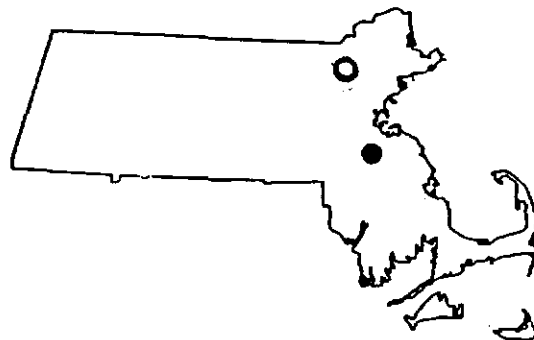
HABITAT IN MASSACHUSETTS

Dry, rocky wooded slope open to sun. Co-occurring species include oaks, hickories, Panicum commutatum (Variable Panic-grass), Panicum latifolium (Broad-leaved Panic-grass), Solidago caesia (Bridal-wreath Goldenrod), Pycnanthemum incanum (Hoary Mountain-mint) and Pycnanthemum tenuifolium (Narrow-leaved Mountain-mint).

(continued overleaf)



Distribution of Basil Mountain-mint.



● Verified since 1978
○ Reported prior to 1978

Distribution in Massachusetts by Town

BASIL MOUNTAIN MINT (continued)

RANGE

Basil Mountain-mint is sparsely distributed from Massachusetts south to Maryland.

POPULATION STATUS

This species is considered "Endangered" in Massachusetts. One current (1978 to present) occurrence and one historical (prior to 1978) occurrence have been recorded. It is rare in Massachusetts due to lack of suitable openings on wooded slopes here at the northern limit of its range.